

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 34th Meeting of the Fleet Study Group held at Weymouth College, Cranford Avenue, Weymouth on Friday, 8th July 1988.

Present: Dr M. Ladle (Chairman)
Mr D. Moxom (Strangways)
Mr G. Poole
Mr N. Copperthwaite
Mrs J. Fitzpatrick (Secretary)

Apologies: Dr J. Whittaker
Mr D. Seaward
Mr E. Green (Strangways)

Owing to the absence of many members of the FSG and the scarcity of business, the meeting was brief and limited to a few of the usual items.

FLEET BOREHOLES - Mr Poole had collected material from about 17 boreholes made to a depth of up to 5 m. The samples were to be divided into two lots for examination of the fauna - one for Mr Seaward, the other for Dr Whittaker.

BASS FISHING - Dr Ladle reported that investigations into the nursery status of the Bass in the Fleet were still in progress. He would obtain a photocopy of the report when it was published.

PORTLAND HARBOUR MARINA - Mrs Fitzpatrick would contact Mr White (NCC) to see if any further information was available. Because of this and other controversial schemes affecting the Fleet it was necessary to ensure that a representative from the Planning Authority attended future meetings of the FSG. Dr Ladle would press strongly for this with the DCC.

FSG ARCHIVES - The problem of the best place to store the photocopies, reprints and reports in our possession had still not been resolved. The County Museum in Dorchester had been willing to take them but it was felt that easy access was essential. Mrs Fitzpatrick still had them but felt that they would be better removed from her house. After some discussion, with the Estate Office in Abbotsbury as a possible site, it was decided that Mr Poole's Study, near Weymouth College would perhaps be the best venue. His telephone number with a notice to the effect that papers could be photocopied, could be circulated to members of the FSG, together with a notice in the Proceedings.

JAPANESE SEAWEED - Mr N Copperthwaite reported on the dying off of Sargassum west of the Narrows on the Beach side. He also suggested that one possible way of controlling the weed in a small area might be the use of black polythene sheets. He also noted that a brown seaweed had been growing on Sargassum in

certain areas, though not on healthy plants. He had sent a sample to Dr Farnham for identification.

OYSTER PROJECT - Mr Copperthwaite reported that the oysters in his trial beds were growing rapidly and showed no disease and a very low mortality rate. The animals would be harvested next year. He had asked Mr Jim White to look at the site.

OIL SPILLAGES - Since last December (1987) two minor occurrences of light oil had been noticed in the Fleet. The Navy had admitted to some spillage and would be carrying out different loading methods. The Queen's Harbour Master had been invited to the Management Group for discussions. Mr Copperthwaite felt that we needed an assurance that all steps possible were being taken to prevent oil pollution in the Fleet and Portland Harbour.

FLEET BOTANICAL PROJECT - Mr Fair had been approached by Mr McCadden of Southampton University for permission to carry out a botanical study at various points on the shore of the Fleet and Chesil Beach during the summer of 1988. He would be coordinating the project with Mrs Fitzpatrick. He was also hoping for sponsorship.

MEMORIAL TREE TO DR BURROWS - The Whitebeam that had been planted in March had cost £10. This was to have been paid for by members of the FSG to the tune of £1 per head. Could donations be sent to Mrs Fitzpatrick or given to her at the next meeting of the Group.

The date of the next Meeting of the Fleet Study Group was set for Friday 18th November 1988 at the Weymouth College. It was hoped that there would be a better attendance.